



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
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### **HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL 2021 INAUGURATION**

Five new and four returning members of the Honolulu City Council will be sworn in at noon on Saturday, January 2, 2020, which is when their terms begin pursuant to the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu.

The inauguration ceremony will take place in the Council Chamber where only invited guests and dignitaries, and essential staff will be allowed. The oath of office will be administered by Hawai'i Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald. Also stated in the Charter, the first official Council Meeting of 2021 is to be conducted in conjunction with the ceremonial inauguration.

***"This is a momentous occasion to swear in five new Councilmembers, especially after the challenging year we all endured due to the COVID-19 pandemic, said Council Chair Ann Kobayashi. "The City Council looks forward to welcoming the diverse, newly-elected Councilmembers and the four continuing Councilmembers. I am confident that each of them will serve their constituents with professionalism, wisdom and compassion."***

Chair Kobayashi has designated Vice-Chair Tommy Waters to lead the proceeding as Chair Pro Tempore and serve as the event's master of ceremonies.

***"I'm proud of my colleagues, the Council's many employees and the entire legislative branch, who never stopped doing the people's work from the beginning of this pandemic," said Vice-Chair Waters. "On behalf of the City Council, this inauguration will be significantly subdued compared to past events, and the Council has diligently and proactively instituted comprehensive protocols to ensure that we can safely recognize the new members."***

The newly-elected Councilmembers taking the oath are: Andria Tupola (Council District 1), Esther Kia'aina (District 3), Calvin Say (District 5), Radiant Cordero (District 7), and Augie Tulba (District 9).

To ensure all safety guidelines are followed, each Councilmember was limited to inviting only two guests, for a total of 18, as well as one staff member to be seated inside the Chamber. In comparison and pre-COVID, the Councilmembers were allowed to invite up to a total of 135 guests at Council inaugurations.

Past inaugurations also attracted large crowds and were often standing room only. The Council typically invited 50 to 70 dignitaries or VIP guests. For the 2021 inauguration, Hawai'i Governor David Ige has been invited and Honolulu Mayor-elect Rick Blangiardi will be attending and seated inside the Chamber well.

This year, a temperature scan will be administered to all Councilmembers, invited guests, and essential legislative branch staff, as well as to Honolulu police officers providing security and members of the media, before being allowed to enter the Chamber. Everyone has been informed that they must wear facial coverings, practice social distancing and follow the seating guidelines. Seating for guests will begin at 11:15 a.m.

The Message of Aloha will be delivered by Samantha Neyland, Miss Hawaii USA 2020. There will be no live music at this inauguration but recordings of the National Anthem and Hawai'i Pono'i, will be played at the appropriate times.

Guest parking for the event will be limited, with some stalls available in the City's Municipal Lot at the Civic Center. Three parking spaces in front of Honolulu Hale may be utilized by pool videographers attending to record the event.

As always, this public proceeding will be broadcast and televised live online and on 'Olelo, Channel 54. The public, though prohibited from entering the Chamber, may submit written or remote oral or video testimony in accordance with that day's Order of Business, which they've been instructed to do since the Council modified its proceedings and required virtual participation for members of the public wishing to testify.

The inauguration can also be viewed by going to the following Honolulu City Council web sites: <http://www.honolulu.gov/council> or <http://www.honolulucitycouncil.com/>

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